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THE DAILY TEXAN

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UNIVERSITY

UT acts to hasten violence discipline

By Cassandra Jaramillo
@thedailytexan

President Gregory Fenves announced Wednesday that the University plans to update its institutional disciplinary rules to expedite investigations into cases of violence.

Fenves issued a statement saying immediate change was needed, a day after The Daily Texan reported on a racially-motivated assault that occurred in February. The University hasn't reached a resolution more than a month after the victim reported to the Dean of

Students. Fenves said the dean had already been reviewing the current institutional disciplinary policies for several months and that the attack highlighted an immediate need to bring change. "It became apparent that when a student is accused of a violent act, that we need

to work more expeditiously after this recent unfortunate, disturbing incident took place in February," Fenves said. Fenves said the University is working on shortening the timeline of investigations — while still ensuring due process for the accused — and

giving the dean the discretion to impose interim suspensions on accused students. "We need the tools to do an interim suspension of the student until there's a resolution of the case," Fenves said. "That's a very important part

VIOLENCE page 2

CAMPUS

Minorities' graduation rates grow at slower pace

By Caleb Wong
@caleber96

From 2003 to 2013, the gap in graduation rates between white and minority students has widened, according to a report from the Education Trust. Using data drawn from the National Center for Education Statistics, the report found six-year graduation rates for underrepresented students, which the report defined as black, African-American and Native students had risen from 65.8 percent to 69.6 percent from 2003 to 2013. However, the graduation rates of white students at UT had risen from 74.3 percent to 83.1 percent, five percent more than their minority peers — during the same timespan. "Both policymakers and institutional leaders must pay more attention to who benefits from the increased focus on completion," the Education Trust report said. "Our data make it clear that overall institutional improvement doesn't always translate into gains for underrepresented students that match those for white students — much less close long-standing gaps." Amber Magee, Student Government administrative director and former director of the diversity and inclusion agency, said underrepresented students tend to graduate at lower rates because they aren't targeted for academic opportunities at a young age that help them develop the skills they need to get into UT. "You have to recognize that students aren't starting out on the same field," said Magee, health and society and public health senior. "Regardless of

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT

HELGREN/KIM 2016



Asa Johnson | Daily Texan Staff

Kevin Helgren, student body president-elect, celebrates with his supporters after winning the executive alliance runoff election with 51.03 percent of votes.

Helgren, Kim take executive alliance nail-biter | SG page 2

By Rachel Lew @rachelannlew

CAMPUS

Secretary of Defense visits UT

By Wynn Davis
@thedailytexan

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter visited UT Thursday and engaged in a discussion with students about the United States' current security situation. During the event, which was hosted by the Clements Center for National Security and the Robert Strauss Center for International Security and Law, Carter focused on different careers in security and how students today can help protect the nation's security. "When you see the kind of attacks that [Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant] carried out in Brussels you may ask yourself



Mike McGraw | Daily Texan Staff

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter addresses an audience of ROTC members and other students at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center on Thursday morning. Carter talked about opportunities, such as the Defense Digital Service, for students who are not going into the military, but still want to

DEFENSE page 3

CAMPUS

Chavez honored with ceremony

By Hannah Daniel
@hannahdaniel

The Hispanic Faculty/Staff Association held a ceremony honoring Cesar Chavez in front of his statue on the West Mall Thursday afternoon. The ceremony, held on Cesar Chavez Day, opened with a brief message about his legacy, followed by a playing of the song "De colores" from the tower bells. In closing, red carnations were distributed to those in attendance, who placed the flowers at the base of the statue. Chavez is known as a social justice activist who fought for the rights of farm laborers and minorities. He and his followers used nonviolent means such as boycotts, marches and hunger strikes to advance their cause and pave the way for



Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

The Hispanic Faculty and Staff Association commemorated Cesar Chavez Day by his campus statue on Thursday afternoon. farmers to unionize. Chavez, who was born in Arizona to Mexican immigrant parents, died in 1993. HFSA staff co-chair Cindy Cruz said the ceremony held special significance to her because of ties to her own family. "To me, it speaks volumes because my grandparents were migrant farm workers and my dad was a farm laborer, so I thought it was very important for HFSA to recognize our

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TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA

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& LONGHORN Life

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INSIDE



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TOMORROW'S WEATHER

High
75

Low
47

april fools

FRAMES

FEATURED PHOTO

thedailytexan

Stephanie Martinez-Arndt | Daily Texan Staff

Frames are sold at your local craft store.

SG continues from page 1

Kevin Helgren and Binna Kim won the Student Government executive alliance race Thursday with 51.03 percent of the vote in a run-off election against candidates Kallen Dimitroff and Jesse Guadiana.

Helgren and Kim’s campaign platform was centered around the theme “Share Your Story,” which the candidates describe as a movement to encourage students to express their personal background and experiences. Their platform included points such as creating a mental health week to address the stigma surrounding mental illness and starting a national conversation regarding the

problem of sexual assault on college campuses.

“I’m really happy,” Helgren said. “We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we’re excited.”

The runoff election was the third and final executive alliance race this year and generated greater voter turnout than last week’s regular election — 6,836 votes compared to 6,667.

Emily Puig, advertising senior and a member of the Dimitroff-Guadiana campaign’s outreach team, said despite the results the team is happy with the effort shown throughout the campaign.

“While it is disappointing, I’m still so proud of our team, especially Kallen and Jesse. We made huge strides during this runoff and it’s because our we all

really believed in what we were fighting for.”

Helgren said he and Kim want to begin their term in office by speaking with the SG assembly about this year’s six week executive alliance election process.

“I think something that Binna and I recognized in light of the prolonging of the executive alliance race, is that all the U-wide and first-year reps were swept under the rug with all the drama,” Helgren said. “At the beginning of next week, we want to have ‘real talk’ with the assembly. We want to have all the assembly members in a room, and we want to take all the conversation about the tarnished election process, get our feelings out, and then box those feelings up and push it behind us so we can

move forward from here.”

During the campaign process, Helgren and Kim maintained an active presence on social media by encouraging supporters to use a campaign overlay on their Facebook profile pictures and “share their story” through their captions.

Kim said she and Helgren did not run for student body president and vice-president just to campaign.

“Having the campaign over is a relief, but the first day of our job is the reason we decided to run from the beginning,” Kim said. “Having our eye on the prize wasn’t the win, but the work.”

Helgren said he and Kim will schedule a meeting with President Fenves and spend the summer establishing relationships with

UT administration.

“We hope to work on many platform points during the summer to make sure we’re fulfilling our promises to the student body,” Helgren said. “We want to nourish the relationships necessary to make change happen.”

Garrett Mireles, advertising freshman and public relations coordinator for the Helgren-Kim campaign, said he is pleased about the sustained voter turnout in this year’s election.

“I think it’s important to recognize the hard work of both teams,” Mireles said. “I was happy to see voter turnout increase and sustain itself through the re-vote and the run-off, even if it was less than the original vote. I was happy people exercised their right to vote.”

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of the policy.”

Cody Young, the victim of the racially-motivated attack,

said he wanted to wait before commenting on the proposed policy change.

Political communications senior Veronica Rivera said if the changes are successfully implemented, it would be a step in the right direction, but she wishes the University had acted proactively rather than in reaction to Young’s assault.

Christle Nwora, director of Operations of Afrikan American Affairs in the Multicultural Engagement Center, said it was a wise decision to give the dean the discretion to enact

suspensions while investigations are ensuing.

“It’s strange that previously the university was keeping someone that was violent in the same space, and the decision to give the dean the power is backing it up with tangible action,” humanities senior Nwora said.

The University said the office is hoping to implement the new policies as soon as possible, and it could be within days or weeks.

Fenves said he had already given the chancellor and executive vice chancellor an outline of intent.

The new updated policies

do not include instances of insensitive speech, but University spokesperson Gary Susswein said it plans to review all allegations of rule violations, including those of non-violent acts of discrimination.

Ryan Miller, Campus Climate Response team director, said students can report cases of bias to his team, which seeks to improve the campus environment, support students and coordinate responses across the University.

“From CCRT’s perspective, we know that all these

incidents, whether they violate policy or not, have a detrimental effect on whether or not students feel included on campus,” Miller said.

Fenves condemned the attack and expressed sympathy for victims of violence at the University.

“We want to do the best we can so that victims know that the University is committed to the enforcement of policies and the rules,” Fenves said. “And if those are broken, we will take quick actions following due process to make this a safer place for the victim and for all our students.”

THE DAILY TEXAN

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heritage and culture,” Cruz said.

The HFSA officers also distributed informational flyers about the life and legacy of Chavez to students passing by the statue. The flyer described Chavez as “a unique example to live our lives by.” One of the

flyer recipients, history and government junior Jennifer Mendez, said she appreciated HFSA’s efforts to educate people about Chavez.

“I think they were able to be really informational with the flyers they handed out without being too pushy about the topic,” Mendez said. “I think it was very positive and beneficial overall.”

HFSA staff co-chair elect Jay Guevara said educating the public about figures such as Chavez is important to the progress of our nation.

“Every UT student should know about [civil rights leaders] because they are part of American history and they’ve molded and shaped what we are today,” Guevara said. “This is a way to make sure that...every time we

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the income level or the high school life, a white student at UT is going to have more access to resources and opportunities than a black student.”

David Laude, senior vice provost for enrollment and curriculum management, views graduation rates through another lens: economic factors. Laude oversees the University Leadership Network and TIP scholars, which use income, family educational background and other factors to determine which students need academic support the most.

“It wasn’t about ethnicity,” Laude said. “It wasn’t about gender. It was about class. People who are raised affluent are more likely to be able to

survive college because they don’t have to deal with economic issues and they feel more comfortable in that environment.”

When asked about the graduation rate gap between minority students and white students, Laude said he wants to see graduation rates increase “across all arenas,” no matter what the background of the student is.

“When people ask me about four-year graduation rates, I’m going to do it one student at a time,” Laude said. “I don’t care if it’s an affluent student who suffers from depression or if it’s an economically disadvantaged student who needs to work a 20-hour job. I want both of those students to graduate.”

Laude said four-year graduation rates have improved at

UT and he’s optimistic UT can reach a 70 percent graduation rate across the board. According to the provost’s office, the four-year graduation rate rose 2.6 percent to 57.7 percent in 2014.

Clinical education professor Beth Bukoski said she believes the university’s initiatives are making progress in helping more students graduate, but cautioned that race-neutral policies tend to benefit already advantaged students over others.

“What often happens with racially neutral policies is that the main beneficiaries tend to be white people,” Bukoski said. “I really hope to a point where that gap is reduced or completely gotten rid of, but the fact is that race and income are part of the fabric of American existence.”

try to take a step forward, we don’t want to take two steps back because people forget [the past].”

Guevara said the main takeaway from Chavez’s life is to stand up for what is right, even if it seems difficult.

“You should fight against the wrongs in the world right now, but be reminded that you have to work at it because it’s an uphill battle,” Guevara said.

TEXAS STUDENT MEDIA

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ASTRONOMY

Telescope research to illuminate dark energy

By Laura Zhang
@_the_laurax3

The University of Texas research project HETDEX will shine a light on dark energy, the mysterious force that might account for the expansion of the universe.

HETDEX, which stands for the Hobby-Eberly Telescope Dark Energy Experiment, is the first major experiment to search for dark energy by measuring the expansion rate of the universe.

Scientists have been working on HETDEX for the past decade, but only since November have they begun collecting data using the Hobby-Eberly Telescope.

The Hobby-Eberly Telescope, located at the McDonald Observatory in West Texas, is one of the largest optical telescopes in the world. It can observe over 70 percent of the sky, according to UT astronomy professor Karl Gebhardt.

Gebhardt said that although several institutions share the telescope, UT owns over 70 percent, which allows UT researchers to spend significantly more time on the telescope.

In order to enhance the telescope's optical range, UT

researchers attached 150 spectrographs to the telescope with over 34,000 optic fiber cables. Spectrographs are devices that break up light into individual wavelengths. They can reveal how far apart galaxies are from each other and the rate at which they are moving away from Earth.

While other optical telescopes use one big spectrograph, the Hobby-Eberly Telescope used more cost-effective spectrograph replications that allowed researchers to start collecting data sooner.

"Normally in astronomy, a lot of the cost is in the engineering of an instrument. What we did is something very different," Gebhardt said. "Ultimately, we do a blind shot of the sky, go through and find galaxies, measure how far away they are, and then make a map of the universe."

According to Gebhardt, the motivation behind this project stems from the fundamental misunderstanding of the universe, a misconception scientists coin "dark energy."

"Dark energy is not an entity — it may not be dark, and it may not be energy, but it is the phrase we use to represent our ignorance about how the

universe is expanding," Gebhardt said.

Greg Zeimann, a UT post-doctoral researcher, said the universe is accelerating at a rate that cannot be explained by current models.

"If the universe is a car, right now someone is hitting the gas pedal, and there is no law of gravity that includes a gas pedal. It only includes a brake. Something else is hitting the gas pedal — that's the expansion rate," Zeimann said. "So, by measuring how much someone is hitting the gas pedal, you know how much dark energy there is."

Understanding dark energy is essential to comprehending how the universe is growing, according to Niv Drory, a research scientist at the McDonald Observatory.

Drory said that if scientists model the expansion rate of the universe in an equation, the equation suggests a missing element, called dark energy.

"The expansion of the universe is governed by all the constituents in the universe that contribute to gravity. If both sides [of this equation] are equal, great, we explained the expansion rate," Drory said. "If they're not, then we're

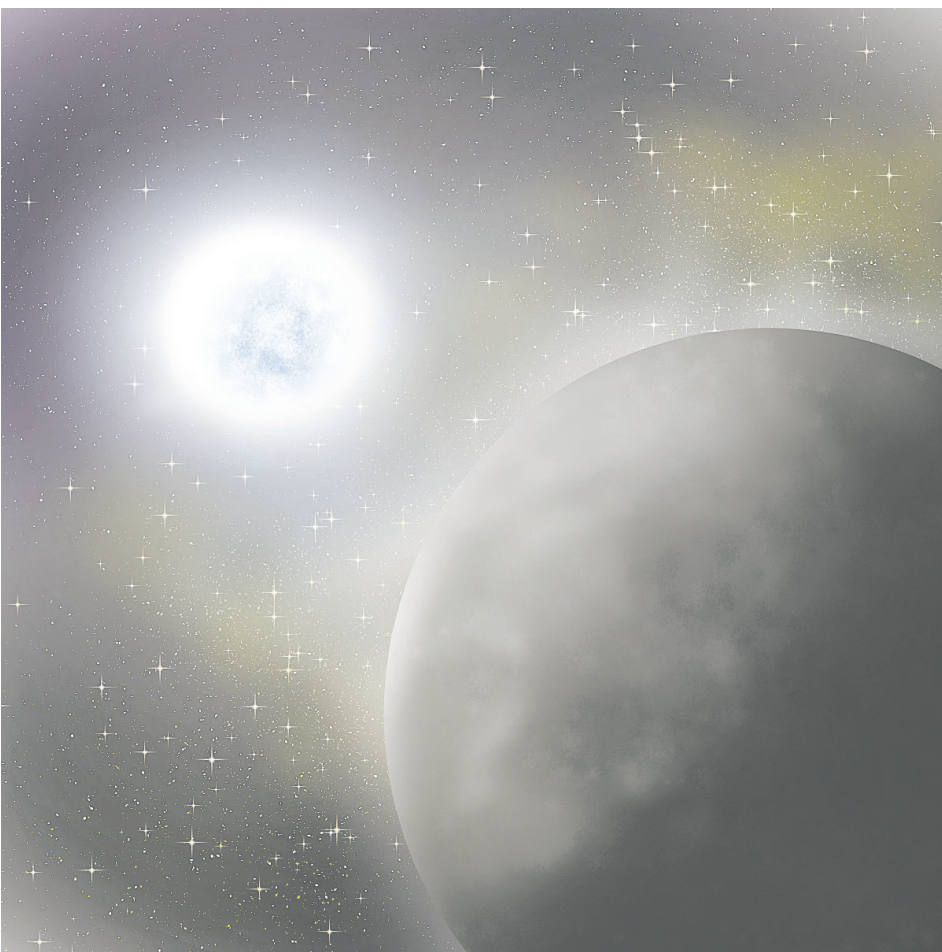


Illustration by Jason Chen | Daily Texan Staff

missing something, which we deem dark energy."

Researchers hope that data collected from HETDEX will

provide insight into how the universe works, according to Gebhardt.

"I love the fact that we're so

insignificant and yet we can still try to understand how the universe came to be and what it's doing," Gebhardt said.

CAMPUS

Panel talks technology in humanities

By Vera Beshpalova
@thedailytexan

Genetic engineering, Shakespeare, quantum computing and the meaning of truth — these were all discussion topics last night at a panel hosted in Calhoun Hall by the Texas Undergraduate Research Journal.

Professors from varying fields sat down to discuss the role of technology in the field of humanities. However, the conversation became more free-form as the night progressed, opening the dialogue to a variety of topics.

English professor John Rumrich launched the conversation by discussing the advantages of using technology to better understand complicated literary texts, specifically in relation to John Milton's "Paradise Lost."

"There're things that books don't do so well, and that they are limited by, particularly the poverty of the auditory imagination," Rumrich said.

He went on to explain that guided audio books can allow readers to delve deeper into multiple-century old works that were initially intended to be heard rather than read.

Later in the discussion, philosophy professor Cory Juhl pointed out the



Briana Vargas | Daily Texan Staff

Professors from varying fields discussed the role of evolving technology in the humanities during a panel with students from various majors on Thursday evening.

downsides to technology being as widely and frequently used as it is today.

"There's so much triviality out there that's kind of titillating, that one can be distracted from doing any sort of deep thinking," Juhl said.

He said all of us, including himself, can become easily distracted by things such as Facebook, which can keep us from meaningful thoughts and actions.

Mathematics sophomore Karalyne Martinez said she attended the event because she saw each panelist was

distinguished in a field she was interested in.

"I didn't realize that I would talk about what I'm actually learning about in my classes now to get the three different perspectives on it created some meaning," Martinez said.

Toward the end of the event, integrative biology professor Sahotra Sarkar discussed the concept of truth in relation to science and experimentation.

"Science deals with things that are not false or approximately true, and that's why ultimately we

think that all scientific theories may get overthrown," Sarkar said.

He added the truths scientists deal with are very different than the truths that philosophers deal with, and there is rarely a one-to-one correspondence in science.

Much like the professors, students attending the event also came from different majors and asked a variety of questions. After the event students had further opportunity to interact with the panelists over refreshments provided by TURJ.

RESEARCH

Study finds racial colorblindness problematic

By Audrey Zhang
@thedailytexan

Teaching children to ignore skin color is dangerous and counterproductive, according to a UT professor's study.

Education professor Marie-Anne Suizzo performed a study on colorblind socialization, or the practice of raising children to ignore and avoid discussions of skin color.

"White children are often taught that all skin colors are equal and should therefore be ignored," Suizzo wrote in an op-ed for the Washington Post. "If a child brings it up, you must quickly silence them and explain that mentioning someone's skin color is rude, and even racist."

Suizzo found there was a gap in how white and African-American mothers discussed race with their

children. While African-American mothers openly discussed positive and negative aspects of skin color, white mothers avoided the topic altogether.

"Despite all our best intentions to avoid and mute any mention of racism, children learn about it from their environments," Suizzo said. "In our study of white mothers, we found that moms with a higher percentage of non-white friends had children with more positive attitudes toward African Americans."

The study also found that educating children about racism in schools was effective at reducing negative views of other races.

Eric Tang, African and African diaspora studies professor, said practicing colorblindness has proven to be ineffective.

"Today's colorblind

proponents falsely argue that the practices which protect non-white racial groups against ongoing discrimination are unnecessary," Tang said in an email. "But the truth is that civil rights laws never ended racial inequality and violence; moreover, nobody in this society is truly capable of abandoning their racial lens and so any claim that one 'never sees race' is simply disingenuous."

Government freshman Shaneal Harun said efforts of colorblind socialization actually perpetuate inequality.

"Teaching colorblindness does nothing to challenge racism because it encourages white children to ignore existing structures that provide them power and privilege," Harun said. "It results in a political discussion where attempts by people of color



Marie-Anne Suizzo
Education professor

to bring up issues of racism are labeled as causing racism themselves."

Harun said ignoring realities of race and skin color is only possible for certain people.

"People of color don't get the luxury of colorblindness," Harun said. "We are constantly reminded of the reality of race in how we attempt to use our voices and the real risks of violence and inequality we face."

DEFENSE

continues from page 1

contribute to improving the nation's security. The team allows individuals to work on specific projects or for short stints of time, and still have other career opportunities.

"As a computer engineering student, finding opportunities to serve with a technical skillset really interests me, and Secretary Carter's talk today helped change my perspective of what the defense industry is like — it's moving to embrace 21st century technologies and adopting some of the culture of Silicon Valley," said Zeyi Lin, computer engineering and Plan II senior.

Carter spoke about what he considers the top five threats to the United States which include ISIL, Iran, North Korea, Russia and China. Although he spoke about all of them, Carter kept coming back to ISIL and the need to take out the group's city strongholds and then follow up by creating an effective government.

Student Government vice president Rohit Mandalapu said his main concern with the goal for cities to be taken from ISIL are the civilians involved.

"The issue with that is that there are so many civilians and with carpet bombing you're killing those people as well [as those involved in ISIL]," Mandalapu said.

CAMPUS

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COLUMN

Make the 40 Acres Great Again

By Noah M. Horwitz
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@RealDonaldTrump

Editor's Note: In the spirit of April Fool's Day, all material appearing on the Opinion page today is satirical and meant in jest. The opinions expressed on this page are not meant to be taken literally.

Let's make UT Great Again! Let's do it. Okay? Okay! SG does not win at anything. It sucks! The new student body president will win so much, we will get tired of winning.

Now, this may sound impossible. And maybe it is. How, exactly, do we win so much that we grow tired of it? In 2005, our football team won every single game until Vince Young brought home the roses. Did we get tired of winning then? I don't think so.

In 2013, this University defeated Abigail Fisher at the Supreme Court. All we did was win. And did we get tired? Not yet.

This year, however, in the great and glorious year 2016, winning will grow tiresome to us. We will win so much that it will hurt. It will hurt all of you. But first, we have to become great again.

When, exactly, did we stop being great? The date that instantly comes to mind for me is January 22, 2014. That is the day in which a real Grade-A loser named Noah Horwitz first started penning trash for this newspaper.

But enough about that paid shill for Big

“Accordingly, University of Oklahoma is going to pay for the wall. I promise you this. I really do. Whenever we figure out where the wall is going, OU President David Boren is going to get the bill.

Statue. We have bigger things to worry about. Like how we win again.

I, for one, think that we need to build a wall. Where should this wall be, you might ask? I'm not completely sure. We will work out the details at a later time. Maybe somewhere near the Red River. But that's not important. What is important is that this wall is going to be huge. No, scratch that; it's not going to be huge. It's going to be yuuuuuuuuge.

Accordingly, University of Oklahoma is going to pay for the wall. I promise you this. I really do. Whenever we figure out where the wall is going, OU President David Boren is going to get the bill. If he refuses the first time, the wall will get higher. If he uses a nasty, nasty word, it doubles in height. This I can assure.

Now, some people want to take a different approach to making UT Great Again. (Or,



Illustration by Joanna Levine | Daily Texan Staff

for that matter, making something else Great Again.) Demagogues seek to divide us with fear and racial prejudices. Under the guise of unity, xenophobia fractures us more than anything else.

Some say we need to return to a racist past to make us Great Again. Perhaps that would be resurrecting the Jefferson Davis statue. Perhaps, as Fisher keeps begging, affirmative action should be done away with, causing this

university to become less diverse when the state it represents is heading in the opposite direction.

The truth is that UT doesn't need to be made Great Again. We never stopped being that way. Unity, diversity and a common belief that OU SUCKS is really what we're about, not bigotry disguised as nostalgia.

Horowitz is a government senior from Houston.

GALLERY



Illustration by Patrick Trinidad | Daily Texan Staff

COLUMN

Cruz's surveillance plan is not upsetting at all

By Khadija Saifullah
Daily Texan Senior Columnist
@coolstorysunao

The race for the Republican presidential nomination has produced some concerning xenophobic rhetoric. However, when considering the perspective of the candidates, their beliefs and propositions start to make a lot more sense.

In reaction to the tragedy in Brussels, Ted Cruz said that law enforcement should “patrol and secure” Muslim neighborhoods “before they become radicalized.” Aside from raising multiple civil concerns, and proposing that law enforcement should casually secure 3 million people in the country because of their religious beliefs, Cruz's proposal seems like a repetition of a failed experiment. A program called the Demographics Unit, which lasted from 2003-2014, used officers in everyday clothing to monitor conversations and whereabouts of people in Muslim-populated areas in New York.

I'm sure you would definitely be able to predict “Islamism” from spying on a family dining at New York Pizzeria struggling with a crying baby in arms. Or from a group of Muslim girls in head scarves catching up over coffee at Starbucks in Times Square. This program was a failure, and although it took place over a span of ten years, it did not lead to a single investigation by the NYPD. Unfortunately, Muslims are not as interesting as Cruz suspects them to be.

In fact, Cruz is actually right. Investing in a surveillance program again would probably introduce law enforcement to biryani, a south Asian dish well-known to Muslims that is full of the very spices that were so appealing to the British. Perhaps driving by neighborhoods with a spice detector on hand and an astute sense of the smell of food would direct law enforcement to suspicious homes.

Cruz may stumble upon Muslims distribut-

ing clean water to the victims of the Flint Water Crisis in so-called “Muslim neighborhoods.” As a Muslim myself, I can assure that Muslims are definitely worried about their wallets because of this proposition. Surveilling mosques means that law enforcement will get to witness all sorts of absurd parking issues, parents dragging their kids to prayer or men arguing about sports.

Interestingly enough, Cruz, who, using the phrase “radical Islamic terrorism” at least 10 times when discussing Muslims, acts like it's the only association he has with this minority group of 3 million American citizens. His overly-used phrase is just another way of categorizing the Muslims he's afraid are too religious, too covered and too fresh-off-the-boat from Arabia for his liking. I'm sure he gets goosebumps when hearing references from one of Disney's most famous films, “Aladdin.”

This is not the first proposition of minority surveillance in history. In fact, the very country that engages in this sort of surveillance of minority groups, Cuba, is the same country from which Ted Cruz's father escaped for America. I guess he's a fan of repeating history, even when it has led to the failure of a country's government — though any U.S. Congressman will tell you he has a particular talent for that.

According to Pew Research, the state of Texas itself has some of the most Muslim-populated cities in the country, including Austin, Dallas and Houston. Islam has also become the second-most-practiced religion in the Lone Star State. This evidence should be a wake-up call to realize how important it is for surveillance to start right here at Halal Bros and Kismet Cafe, popular Muslim-owned restaurants right near campus where you usually find a variety of students just chilling between classes, catching up with their peers or simply grabbing food. These threats to our liberty must be eliminated.

Saifullah is a neuroscience sophomore from Richardson.

COLUMN



Infographic by Iliana Storch | Daily Texan Staff

Republic of Texas shall rise once and for all

By Alyssa Fernandez
Daily Texan Columnist
@TexanEditorial

“[The government's] money is giving power to the misguided liberals that blindly follow Marxism who will combust this country. ... It will only be a repeat of hardworking citizens bending to the will of Congress if we let them draft the new laws of the Republic of Texas!”

In 1845, an erroneous crime went unpunished. The Union annexed Texas without the permission of its sovereign people. What has happened since is an unforgivable occupation that has treaded on the lives of innocent Texians. Our rights robbed, our properties regulated, our guns taken and if this continues—our liberties. Many Texians cry for a revolution to take back our right of independence and it can be done with the help of an old friend: Mexico. Let Mexico annex Texas as it once was to beseech us of the suffocating oversight of Congress.

The Republic of Texas once gloriously stood against the odds for ten years but not without a fight.

Remember the Alamo. Come and Take it. Buc-ees.

Mantras that defined our rebellious nature that we continue to crave to this day. What has been lost in history is debts, debates, conventions and drafts. Who will be the one to draft the new Texas Declaration of Independence? With the government funneling our taxes into the University of Texas, they are purposely funding a counterrevolution.

The government's money is giving power to the misguided liberals that blindly follow Marxism who will combust this country. Sadly, these same people dominate the intellectual spectrum of Texas. It will only be a repeat of hardworking citizens bending to the will of Congress if we let them draft the new laws of the Republic of Texas!

This can be prevented by going back to Mexico. Their government holds little control over the actual daily lives of its citizens, making it the perfect lawless

territory where we can recreate the days of John Wayne and Davy Crockett. Their patriarchal society will actively discourage liberals from staying in Texas, and they will effectively move out of our Republic. This will siphon them while we can enjoy a vacation before we take on the tedious labor that is required for running a country.

On top of that, Texas already has a winning streak in winning a war against Mexico. Compare those odds to the war on Southern heritage with the United States and the answer is obvious.

The Supreme Court has already ruled that lawful states have no right to secede from the Union after the Civil War. But there isn't any rule against another country annexing a state and that state seceding from the other country. It's a loophole to independence all Texians need to adopt. Alternatively, Texians could just put more effort into researching their candidates before voting to be properly represented in Washington. Happy April Fools' Day.

Fernandez is a Spanish and rhetoric and writing junior from Allen.

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Craba
Cobertkoto
Coto32!

Such
Wow

IT'S APRIL FOOL'S!

~Our artists have changed places!~
Ha, ha! You were fooled! Ha! ha.

Adyda
Lainmawu

memes

STAN RIPS AUDREY MCNAY

WHY SO LITERAL
EXCEEDINGLY LITERAL

LITERARY THINGS: TUMBLR
VERY FAT DOG.

Exceedingly Average (literally?...) Sian Rips Audrey McNay

you must find the answer for yourself

Well thanks alot meme fan, rip

The World is Round

Haha!
I've done it!
The perfect weapon!

One they can
NEVER DESTROY!!

Mel W.

Pickles & Self-Hatred

Your test scores
are so low
this semester!

You need to
boo more people!

Boo who?

Well you dont need
to cry about it.

picklesandselfhatred.tumblr.com

By Connor M. originally by Melanie W.

HEY.
WHERE AM I?

Some sort of...
parallel universe!

PERFECT.

Jessica Warek

Man, I'm tired.

Oh....

Could I sleep here???

The New York Times Crossword

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0226

PUZZLE BY PAULA GAMACHE

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

STIFLE	MR	ROPER
POGOED	WAY	ABOVE
LOUNGE	AUNTIE	TEAM
AMAZON	VINE	ETNA
YEN	ITA	TISP
YAHOO	POLITICO	
SOPH	NOBUTS	
VAYA	AIRS	
HEROIN	ZOOL	
VULTURE	GAWKER	
DOS	TGI	CHE
ILKS	CRASH	SITES
SAILBOAT	EASEUP	
CREAMPIE	EXARMY	
SERBIAN	DENNY	S

ACROSS

1 1991 Scorsese/De Niro collaboration

9 Something exciting to play with

15 Fragile fabric made from certain plant fibers

16 Tough leather

17 Amstrayed

18 One getting lots of take-out orders?

19 Edward VII or VIII, in India: Abbr.

20 ___ nullius (no one's property)

21 Pioneering labor leader Samuel

22 Was suddenly successful

24 Nullius ___ (of no legal force)

25 Like NSFW links

26 Kennedy and Bush 41, but no other U.S. presidents

28 Chuck

29 "Mum's the word"

31 Little, in Lockerbie

32 Cross collections, e.g.

33 Roughneck's workplace

35 It's in the far northwest

37 Product of Greek culture?

38 Moderately dry

39 True

40 Splitting words

41 "Mr. ___" (Styx hit)

42 Blow hole?

45 Winner's prize on "RuPaul's Drag U"

46 Gap fillers, of sorts

47 "My response was ___" informally

48 "Grey's Anatomy" actress with five straight Emmy nominations

50 Hands on deck

51 Hand wringer's cry

52 Flip

53 Bridge tolls, e.g.

DOWN

1 They might spook spelunkers

2 Where the San Antonio Spurs used to play

3 Blowhard

4 Job ad init.

5 Broccoli bit

6 Like pain after treatment, often

7 Nails

8 Stop sign?

9 Unwanted attention

10 Checks out

11 Adds with a whisk

12 Makeshift coaster, maybe

13 Reason to hold your nose

14 Gen ___ (millennials)

15 Yellow-flowered plant producing a sticky resin

23 Chicago Fire's sports org.

24 Noisy recreation vehicles

26 Blanket

27 "Uh-huh, I believe that"

29 "Hold your horses"

30 Forgo a night out

32 His wife and sons were Depression-era criminals

34 Couple taken out on a rainy day

36 2/2, to Toscanini

37 Key-ring ornament

39 Demolition cleanup machine

41 ___ Barber, five-time Pro Bowler from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers

42 Like some legal decrees

43 Owl's hoot, to some

44 Pomeranian, e.g.

45 Cross words

48 Trifle

49 Org. in the gulf war's Operation Granby

Online subscriptions: Today's puzzle and more than 7,000 past puzzles, nytimes.com/crosswords (\$39.95 a year).

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hmm...

DING-DONG

Maybe not.

Rachel West

Today's solution will appear here next issue

			6		3		5	
	7	9						4
	5	3			2	6	9	
		4	4				3	2
	9	8		6		5		
					1			
				8		9		3
3			9		6	7		
		7	4		5			1

SUDOKUFORYOU

3	1	7	4	2	6	5	9	8
8	2	9	5	7	3	6	4	1
5	4	6	9	1	8	7	3	2
2	5	3	7	8	1	4	6	9
6	9	4	2	3	5	1	8	7
1	7	8	6	9	4	2	5	3
4	8	2	3	5	7	9	1	6
9	6	1	8	4	2	3	7	5
7	3	5	1	6	9	8	2	4

BASEBALL

Clemens thrives after position change

By Michael Shapiro
@mshap2

Kody Clemens had finally settled in. The freshman entered head coach Augie Garrido’s program in the fall with a roster spot, but no position. After shuffling throughout the in-field in fall practice — taking pit stops at second base, short-stop and third base — Clemens was penciled in as Garrido’s everyday third baseman to start the year. Clemens scuffled at the hot corner at the beginning of the season with two errors in his first three games. But as the Longhorns’ defense deteriorated throughout their nonconference slate, Clemens trended in the opposite direction. Showing increased range and a cannon arm, Clemens became a stalwart at third.

“It took some getting used to, but I kept working hard,” Clemens said of playing third base. “Staying after practice and taking those extra ground balls really helped my progression.” But Texas dropped five of six contests in mid-March. The Longhorns’ porous defense plagued them throughout, hampering a team hoping to repeat as Big 12 champions. Garrido needed to make a change. And just as he was getting comfortable at third, Clemens was on the move. The two spoke about moving Clemens to shortstop, but were reluctant about moving



Gabriel Lopez | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman shortstop Kody Clemens takes a swing at the ball. Clemens began the season at third base but has since moved to shortstop. He has no errors in five games at shortstop.

him midway through the year. “He had put in significant time at third,” Garrido said. “But he’s played with a lot more confidence at short. He’s provided us with good range and consistency on the plays you’d expect a shortstop to make.” After some deliberation, a decision was made. Clemens moved to shortstop, replacing redshirt sophomore Brett Boswell who moved to DH. The switch came naturally

for Clemens. Occupying the middle infield is far from foreign territory, as Clemens played shortstop throughout his time at Memorial High School in Houston. “It’s not that big of a transition,” Clemens said. “I played shortstop in high school, and I feel confident there. I was learning a lot at third, but everything feels more natural now.” Clemens was replaced at third by junior Tres Barrera, and his double play partner junior Zane Gurwitz came to second from center field. Garrido’s reshuffled infield surrounded Clemens with three juniors, all veterans of the Longhorns program. Despite his own lack of experience, Clemens has fit right in. Constant chatter can be heard in the Longhorns’ infield, with much of it coming from Clemens. “He’s right there with them,

because he’s a baseball player,” Garrido said. “There’s so many discussions you can have in an infield before the pitch, and he’s in every one of them.” Clemens has no errors en route to a perfect fielding percentage through five games at shortstop entering this weekend’s series with Oklahoma. For the second time this season, it looks as though Clemens has finally settled in.

MEN’S TENNIS

Texas home-stand continues with double header

By Alana Kaufman
@akauf810

The Longhorns continue their five-match home stand Saturday with a day-night doubleheader against UTSA at the Polo Tennis Club to close out nonconference play. No. 21 Texas is now 13-6 for the season after defeating Tulsa and Incarnate Word last weekend. “We’re getting into April and May now so let’s hope that we can play our best tennis now at the end of the season,” head coach Michael Center said after last weekend’s match. Texas has now won nine of their last ten matches, with four of those wins coming against teams ranked 30th or higher in the Oracle/ITA Collegiate Tennis Rankings. Freshman Harrison Scott has won six of his last eight singles matches with two of those wins coming over ranked opponents and is up to No. 113 in the ITA rankings. Redshirt freshman Julian Zlobinsky earned two more wins last weekend giving him a 10-3 record. Sophomore Adrian Ortiz is currently 11-3 for the season after defeating Tulsa senior Carlos Bautista, 6-4, 7-6. Senior Michael Riechmann and sophomore Adrian Ortiz are featured at No. 61 in the latest ITA doubles rankings. The duo is 8-7 this season in dual match play. Match play will begin at 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturday at the Polo Tennis Club.



Harrison Scott
Freshman

TRACK & FIELD

Decathlon highlights day two of relays

By Leah Vann
@Vanntastic_Leah

Day two of the Texas Relays started with the final events of the men’s decathlon and women’s heptathlon. Sophomore Ashtin Zamzow finished fourth overall with 5,829 points after setting a new personal record in long jump of 5.73 meters. Freshman Reese Thompson also finished fourth in the men’s decathlon with 7,136 points. His 14.66 second performance in the 110 hurdles and 4.80 meter vault carried his way to victory amongst other strong finishes. In the 400 hurdles, No. 1 Ariel Jones was announced as the top competitor in the nation. “I’m taking advantage of that,” Jones said, “I want to keep that title as long as I can.” Jones finished with the top time in the preliminaries at 56.91 seconds, with her closest competitor Kiana Hawn from Baylor sitting at 57.48 seconds. Jones will advance to the final rounds on Saturday and participate in the 4x400 relay tomorrow. No. 2 Byron Robinson sprinted far past the competition to start the race, but took a bad fall on the last straight of the 400 hurdles, and didn’t advance to the final. “I was just chopping my steps,” Robinson said, “I was



Rachel Zein | Daily Texan Staff

Freshman Blake Scott took second place the men’s pole vault at day two of the Texas Relays on Thursday. The competition will continue this weekend.

running too much to the hurdles. Instead of switching my legs, I tried to chop it in and reach for it.” Robinson could redeem his performance in the 400 hurdles tomorrow morning. Texas had a strong showing in the Men’s Pole Vault Collegiate C Division. Freshman Blake Scott cleared 5.21 meters on his first attempt, then 5.31 meters on his second attempt, which set him apart from the third place competitor, Brandon Bray from Texas Tech. Brad Johnson from Virginia Tech cleared 5.31 meters on his first attempt, sealing the gold. “It’s a dream come true to come back to Texas Relays after high school and compete for the home team,” Scott said. Ending the night was Olympic silver medalist and former Longhorn, Leo Manzano, running his first 800 meter race of his outdoor season. Although he didn’t get the performance he had hoped for, he said the Texas Relays is a special competition. “This is a family event,”

Manzano said, “I brought Max, my son, and he loves it. I hope everybody will get to experience it.” “I was just chopping my steps. I was running too much to the hurdles. Instead of switching my legs, I tried to chop it in and reach for it.” —Byron Robinson, Sprinter

MEN’S GOLF

Longhorns set for 3M Augusta Invitational

By Trenton Daeschner
@TrentDaeschner

The Masters Tournament may be next week, but first Augusta, Georgia, will welcome 16 college golf teams this weekend for the 3M Augusta Invitational at the Forest Hills Golf Club. Texas enters the tournament ranked No. 1 for the first time this season, having won four of its last five tournaments. It’s the second to last event on the schedule before the Longhorns head to Trinity, Texas, for the Big 12 Championship. Head coach John Fields says

he’s looking for his team to get to a “100 percent talent level” heading into the postseason. “If we’re able to approach that — I don’t know if you ever quite get to it — but if we get to where they’re playing at their talent level, we’ll be a very good team and we’ll be hard to beat,” said Fields, who saw his team pick up its fourth win of the season last week at the Valspar Collegiate in Florida. The Augusta Invitational will host three other ranked teams, including No. 2 Illinois, No. 3 Georgia and No. 14 South Florida. Rounds one and two will be played on Saturday with round three concluding on Sunday. The Longhorns are no strangers to success at the Augusta Invitational. Texas won this tournament back-to-back in 2012 and 2013. Former Longhorn and 12-time PGA Tour winner Justin Leonard won the individual title in 1992. The Texas starting lineup includes sophomore Doug Ghim, junior Beau Hossler, junior Gavin Hall, sophomore Scottie Scheffler and redshirt sophomore Taylor Funk. “I’m hoping that we do finally




Taylor Funk
Sophomore

hit that point where we’re 100 percent healthy,” Fields said. “Where we hit that point where a lot of the practice and desire helps us reach our goals.”

SIDELINE

NBA

	BULLS	103
	ROCKETS	100
	NUGGETS	95
	PELICANS	101
	NETS	87
	CAVALIERS	107

TODAY IN HISTORY

1996

Kentucky beat Syracuse 76-67 in the 58th NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship.

TOP TWEET



Kai Locksley
@LOCKSn-LOADED_3

I'm not going anywhere. 🐘

SPORTS BRIEFLY

Longhorns host BYU this weekend

The Longhorns will look to keep up the momentum from their win Wednesday night when they host Brigham Young University in the three-game series this weekend. Junior pitcher Tiarra Davis rebounded Wednesday night after a rough weekend at Baylor. In 12.1 innings against the Bears, Davis gave up nine runs and threw two wild pitches. But she bounced back with just two runs given up and four strikeouts in a complete game win against Texas State. The Longhorns will be without the services of freshman Christina Bardwell, who was suspended indefinitely Thursday for a violation of team rules. Bardwell was hitting .289 and had eight RBIs in 22 games this season. Texas, however, won’t likely miss her presence on the field. Senior center fielder Lindsey Stephens leads the team with .419 batting average, nine doubles, six home runs and 23 RBIs. BYU comes into the weekend with a 19-12 record and is led by junior second baseman Lauren Bell and freshman catcher Libby Sugg. Bell is currently hitting .412, while Sugg has hit 14 home runs and brought in 31 runs. The Cougars, however, struggle in the circle. Junior pitcher McKenna Bull holds a 3.31 ERA and a .256 opponent’s batting average. Game one of the series starts Friday at 5 p.m. while Saturday’s doubleheader will start at 6 p.m. —Jacob Martella

MUSIC

All-girl DJ group empowers women through music

By Elizabeth Hlavinka
@hlavinka_e

In Spanish, “chulita” means beautiful or sweet. But when girls refer to themselves as “chulitas,” the word becomes empowering and confident — like Beyoncé calling herself “flawless.”

The Chulita Vinyl Club, an all-girl, vinyl-spinning DJ collective, is full of confident women. The Austin-based group has 12 members who play shows in San Antonio, Austin, the Rio Grande Valley and California. Claudia Saenz, who founded the group in 2013, said their mission is to empower women through music, an art form typically dominated by men.

“The stereotype threat exists in the fact that, if there is something like a DJ scene, [and] I don’t see girls doing that, I feel like I don’t belong there,” Saenz said. “I constantly live in that. We should break those barriers — even though we [sometimes] don’t realize they’re there.”

UT alumna Maribel Falcón joined the group in February and said the club is a creative way for women to gather together, create a space for themselves in the DJ community and feel comfortable.

“By organizing ourselves, we’re able to have a voice,” Falcón said. “Music is an opportunity for girls that are more shy or quiet to

blossom, step forward and feel empowered.”

The Chulita Vinyl Club has performed at bars, music venues and art galleries. Depending on the venue, the DJs can spin anything from punk and rock records to Tejano oldies or jazz.

Phanie Diaz, who joined in 2013, said she sees her performances as “tune selecting” and enjoys creating an environment where people can appreciate music, dance and connect with each other. Diaz said she was nervous the first few times she performed, even though she plays drums for two bands, because she wasn’t used to sharing her personal music collection.

“You listen to what you like in your bedroom, [and] no one’s judging you,” Diaz said. “[Performing] in front of people is almost like letting people into your bedroom. You don’t want people to judge you, but at the same time, you don’t know who [will] enjoy it.”

The girls spin and share their own personal record collections. Alyssa Bunting, who has watched The Chulita Vinyl Club perform since its origin in 2013, became a member two weeks ago.

Along with playing the records, Bunting said hunting them down is just as fun. Once, she found The Beatles album, *Rubber Soul*, in a \$1



Mariana Gonzalez | Daily Texan Staff

Claudia Saenz is the proud founder of Chulita Vinyl Club in Austin, TX. It is an all-girl vinyl-spinning DJ collect that puts on shows across the state of Texas and in California.

bin and a Frank Sinatra record at a flea market in Paris. In one record, she found a love note signed and dated in 1984.

She said what makes vinyl records special is that they each have their own story and background.

“It’s a connection to the past,” Bunting said. “It reminds me of my family.

And it’s true what they say — things do sound better on vinyl for the most part.”

Last week, the Chulita Vinyl Club opened for Flaco Jiménez, a Grammy-winning Tejano accordionist. It was Bunting’s first performance with the group. Saenz, who helped Bunting prepare, said watching first-timers spin vinyl is the most rewarding part

of her experience because it is often something the DJs never thought they could do.

This month, Saenz will perform as the guest DJ at a Selena Tribute in San Antonio. Next week, the Chulita Vinyl Club will be the only female DJ group to perform at the Maverick Music Festival in San Antonio, which is headlined by The Flaming

Lips. Saenz said she sees this as a breakthrough and hopes to have similar shows in the future.

“Now, we get to be a part of [the DJ] community, when we normally wouldn’t have been invited,” Saenz said. “That’s the beautiful part about it. They could have easily asked any other guy DJ, but they asked us.”

MOVIE REVIEW | ‘I SAW THE LIGHT’

‘I Saw The Light’ fails to honor late musician Hank Williams’ legacy

By Sebastian Sada
@sseebbaastian

For much of the 20th century, traces of country singer Hank Williams appeared in the melodies of his musical successors. Despite this legacy, in “I Saw the Light,” writer and director Marc Abraham fails to recognize the impact of his career showing it into the background of his ultimately underdeveloped film.

Set in 1940s America, “I Saw the Light” touches upon the turmoils that plagued Hank Williams’ short-lived career. Starring Tom Hiddleston and Elizabeth Olson, the biopic invites viewers to observe Williams’ rise to fame and untimely demise, utilizing his struggles with alcoholism, infidelity and drug use to drive the chaotic narrative. The onset of unemployment and broken family bonds become the center of Abraham’s film, situating viewers in the woes of Williams’ private life while touching base on their ties to his music. The events that transpire signify the turbulence of a complex double life — one that is revered by the public and detested by loved ones.

From the outset, Tom Hiddleston excels as the simultaneously charming and troubled Williams, fitting into his shoes with the fluidity of

a veteran actor. Unlike the two-dimensional protagonists that have grown typical of “birth to grave” biopics, Williams is multifaceted and brimming with nuances that demonstrate Hiddleston’s deep understanding of the role. Williams’ counterpart, Audrey Sheppard (Elizabeth Olson), is likewise layered with a multitude of emotions that are well-constructed and powerfully conveyed. The presence of both forces creates a unique chemistry that, though weighed down by unnecessary dialogue, is drenched with substance and executed seamlessly.

However commendable the film’s performances may be, they fail to redeem the biopic from being a narrative without clear structure. Despite Abraham’s intention to focus on Williams’ personal life, he seldom acknowledges his success as an artist or impact on country music, imbuing the story with an unhealthy excess of private moments. The resulting narrative is burdened by a surplus of insignificant sequences, many of which are far too dramatic to do Williams and Sheppard justice. The presence of insignificant tangents over the film’s two-hour duration leaves viewers bored, undermining its potential for excellence.

“I Saw the Light” is further weighed down by its lack of substantial development, primarily in regard to its characters and sequences. Though Hiddleston and Olson skillfully portray Williams and Sheppard, the screenplay fails to provide them — or their relationship — with the growth they deserve. Even important supporting characters fall victim to minimal enrichment, hindering the dynamic between them, Williams and Sheppard and thereby deterring crucial points in the film. The area in greatest need of development is the story itself, which, as a result of Abraham’s unclear narrative structure, succumbs to incomplete or unfulfilled developments, insignificant asides and an absence of narrative focus.

The sum of structural flaws and underdevelopment is a biopic that, despite deserving merit for its performances, fails to provide viewers with the entertainment it promises. “I Saw the Light,” unique as its perspective may be, is hampered by its aimless venture into the personal life of a troubled celebrity. More importantly, it serves as a disservice to country singer Hank Williams, whose legacy in music possesses far more worth than the biopic suggests.

CITY



UT alumnus Josh Row and Jason Archer, founders of Show Goat Mural Works say their murals pay tribute to and capture the essence of Texas.

Maddox Price
Daily Texan Staff

Show Goat artists paint murals with heart for local businesses

By James Rodriguez
@jamie_rod

The north Austin offices of George P. Johnson marketing firm are nearly indistinguishable from the rest of the drab, gray buildings that dot the area. But inside, employees work amid expansive murals that depict Austin culture in dazzling color.

The murals are the products of Show Goat Mural Works, a visual arts company that works with local businesses to produce

hand-painted murals and signage. Artists Josh Row and UT alumnus Jason Archer founded the company in 2011 after working together on a mural for Frank Public Art, the brick wall on Colorado Street that features a mural from a new artist every month. As murals gained popularity in Austin, their business grew, and today a map of their work forms an elaborate scavenger hunt throughout the city.

“I feel like we sort of pioneered the most recent movement in the mural work

here with Frank Public Art,” Archer said. “That’s where it started. We built a certain amount of momentum around that, and sort of went from there.”

Together, Row and Archer handle every aspect of any new mural, including planning the project, tracing out the design using a projector and painting everything by hand, usually in the span of a couple of days. Archer, who curates Frank Public Art, said

MURALS page 5



Courtesy of Sony Pictures Classics

Tom Hiddleston delivers a knockout performance in an otherwise mediocre biopic by Marc Abraham.

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